

ASEAN's Digital Leap: Diplomacy, Payments, and Cybersecurity in Focus

Digital Diplomacy · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. What is the primary goal of the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) negotiations, which saw 'substantial conclusion' in October 2025?

- A) To establish a unified regional currency for digital transactions.
- B) To harmonize digital trade rules, enable trusted cross-border data flows, and establish coherent regulations for e-commerce and cybersecurity across ASEAN.**
- C) To create a single, pan-ASEAN social media platform for diplomatic engagement.
- D) To mandate a common internet service provider for all ASEAN member states.

2. Which initiative aims to link national payment systems seamlessly across ASEAN, thereby creating a more integrated and efficient cross-border payment ecosystem?

- A) ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025.
- B) ASEAN Online Sale Day (AOSD).
- C) ASEAN Regional Payment Connectivity (RPC).**
- D) ASEAN Agreement on Electronic Commerce.

3. What is a significant aspect of TikTok's role in Southeast Asian political campaigning and discourse, as observed in recent elections in Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines?

- A) It primarily serves as a platform for official government announcements and policy debates.
- B) It is used by politicians for authentic, relatable storytelling and by grassroots creators for humor and satire to engage voters.**
- C) Its content is strictly regulated to prevent any political messaging or activism.
- D) It is mainly used for promoting traditional cultural events and tourism.

4. The ASEAN Cybersecurity Cooperation Strategy (ACCS) for 2021-2025 focuses on several key areas. Which of the following is NOT one of its primary objectives?

- A) Advancing cyber readiness.
- B) Strengthening and harmonizing regional cyber policies.
- C) Establishing a regional military cyber command for offensive operations.**
- D) Enhancing trust in cyberspace and regional capacity building.

5. Which ASEAN initiative, launched in 2023, aims to empower youth with digital skills and knowledge to foster innovation and digital literacy, with a focus on digital transformation initiatives?

- A) ASEAN Online Education Platform for Industry 4.0.
- B) Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI).
- C) ASEAN Youth for Digital Action (AYDA).**
- D) ASEAN Cyber-Kids Camp.

6. In January 2024, the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) collaborated with which international body to convene a dialogue on disinformation and misinformation in Singapore?

- A) The United Nations (UN).
- B) The European Union (EU).**
- C) The African Union (AU).
- D) The Pacific Islands Forum (PIF).

7. What is a key benefit of the ASEAN Regional Payment Connectivity (RPC) and Local Currency Transaction Framework (LCTF) initiatives in facilitating cross-border transactions?

- A) They mandate the exclusive use of a single digital currency across ASEAN.
- B) They eliminate the need for any form of digital identification for transactions.
- C) They enable payments in local currencies, reducing costs and transaction time by eliminating reliance on third-party currencies.**
- D) They primarily focus on large-scale corporate financial transfers, not individual transactions.

8. Which roadmap, issued in 2021, outlines a multi-year plan to deepen ASEAN's digital integration and connectivity during the second half of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint (2021-2025)?

- A) ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2020.
- B) Bandar Seri Begawan Roadmap (BSBR).**
- C) ASEAN Digital Integration Framework and its Action Plan (DIFAP).
- D) ASEAN Work Programme on Electronic Commerce 2017-2021.

9. How do diplomats and government officials in ASEAN increasingly use social media, according to recent trends?

- A) Exclusively for private, confidential communications among state leaders.
- B) To reach a broader audience, including youth, to promote policies and engage with public aspirations.**
- C) Only for sharing official press releases without public interaction.
- D) As a platform solely for cultural and tourism promotion, avoiding political topics.

10. What is one of the stated objectives of the proposed ASEAN Cybersecurity Cooperation Strategy 2026-2030, currently being finalized?

- A) To establish a unified ASEAN-wide internet censorship body.
- B) To focus on information sharing, technology development, talent cultivation, and the exchange of expertise to address emerging cybersecurity threats.**
- C) To privatize all national cybersecurity agencies within ASEAN.
- D) To develop offensive cyber capabilities for collective defense against non-state actors.

11. The ASEAN Regional CERT (Computer Emergency Response Team) is an initiative aimed at strengthening cybersecurity cooperation. Which country agreed to fund and host its physical facility in 2024?

- A) Malaysia.
- B) Indonesia.
- C) Singapore.**
- D) Thailand.

12. What significant milestone was announced in October 2025 regarding the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) negotiations?

- A) The final signing and entry into force of the agreement.
- B) The 'substantial conclusion' of negotiations, with the agreement targeted for signing in 2026.**
- C) The complete abandonment of the DEFA due to unresolved disputes.
- D) The decision to transform DEFA into a non-binding declaration.